BYAAAAH!!!

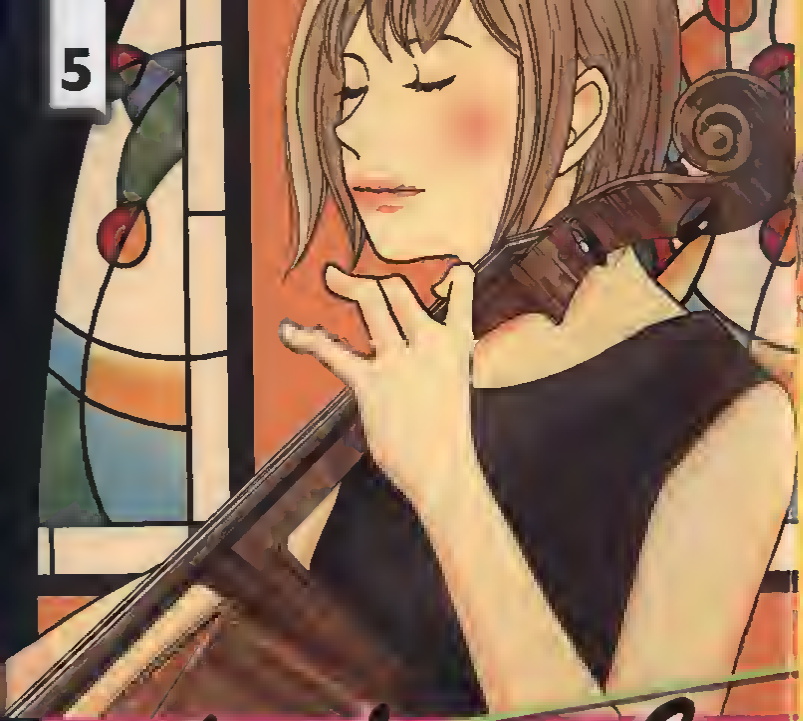
NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERE'S THE 5TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA: NODAME CANTABILE.
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED > CROPPED > CLEANED > SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, GO BUY IT FOR
YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR OWN VERSION..
ANYHOW ENJOY!

NEXT UP: GETBACKERS VOL6

NOTE: RIGHT, WENT IN THE WRONG ORDER, BUT MEH.
VOLS DONE, 3 TO GO. I'VE BEEN SCANNING LIKE CRAZY FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS.
SO EXPECT SOME REGULAR RELEASES OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
IF I HAVE THE TIME TO SCAN MORE, THEN I'LL DO 2 RELEASES A WEEK.
WOW REALISED HOW BAD THE LEVELLING WAS FOR THE 1ST TIME TODAY
(ITS WHAT I GET FOR AUTOMATING THE ENTIRE CLEANING PROCESS).
SINCE I COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO REDO THIS VOL, FROM NEXT TIME I'LL TRY
AND HAVE BETTER CLEANED PAGES (BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH).
ALSO AN ADVANCE APOLOGY TO SOME GROUPS.
I'LL BE STARTING TO SCAN SOME TITLES IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
THAT ARE STILL BEING SCANLATED SORRY TO SAY,
BUT YOU'RE WAAAAAAY BEHIND ON THEM.
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE IF YOU WERE STILL DOING THEM,
SOME ARE, BUT IN MOST CASES, ITS BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST RELEASE
SO AGAIN, SORRY!

RU



Nodame Cantabile

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Winner of the Kodansha Manga of the Year Award

Nodame Cantabile 5 TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Ballantine Books

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AN ORCHESTRAL ORDEAL

Chiaki is beyond ecstatic. Maestro Stresemann has decided to conduct the A orchestra and has asked Chiaki to join. But who will lead the S orchestra? Drastic measures may mean a hilarious concert, and a festival to remember. From the student body to the faculty, the whole school is abuzz with anticipation. Nodame is playing a piano concerto, Chiaki, too, is tickling the ivories (and honored to be led by the Great Master), and the S orchestra is just thrilled to be part of the program. Of course, the real excitement begins the night before the musical event. . . .

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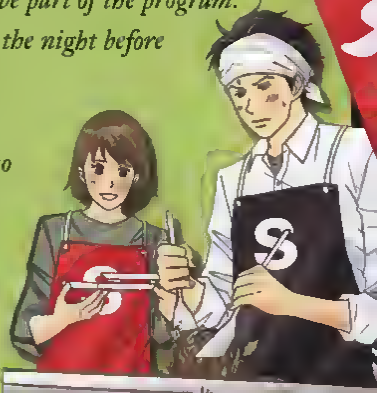

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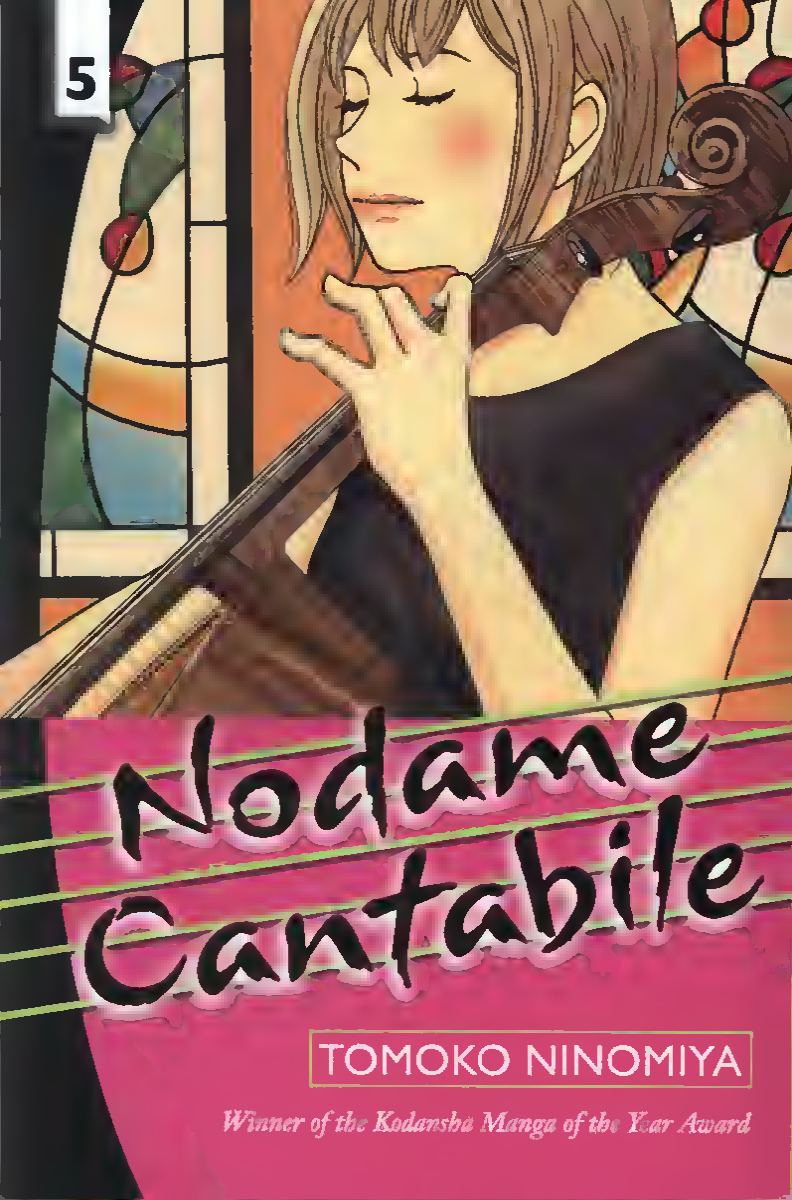
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Nodame Cantabile

5

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David and Eriko Walsh

LETTERED BY
Michaelis/Carpelis Design

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

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A Note from the Author

I listened to Rachmaninoff's music for 2 months but I couldn't find any that I liked to draw to. It's fun to listen to opera, so I wish I could draw about that.

Tomoko Ninomiya

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more importantly, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squirt."

Sempai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

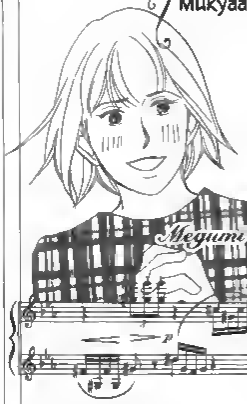
Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: Usually forgotten in these lists, but perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

のだめカンタービレ
Nodame Cantabile
#5
二ノ宮知子
TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Introducing the residents of
Nodame's Kingdom Capriccio Cantabile! ♥
Mukyaa...!! (Nodame-speak)



Noda Megumi
Nickname: Nodame ♥~
3rd year Piano student. She's a wonder-girl who is good at listening. Her love for Chiaki is still burning.

Chiaki Shinichi
4th year Piano student. He is the son of a famous pianist and he wants to be a conductor. He is a cool man, but Mitch and Nodame always drag him around.

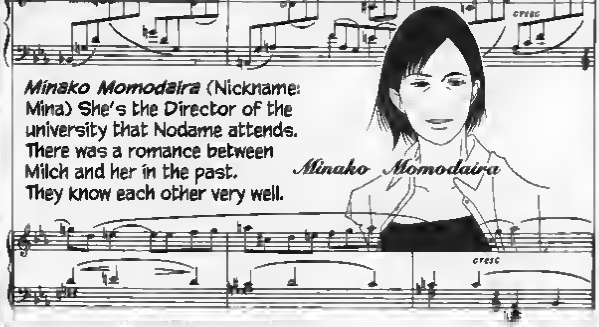
Tagaya Saiko
3rd year Vocal student. She is Chiaki's ex-girlfriend. She still shows up around Chiaki a lot. That means...

Mine Ryutaro
3rd year Violin student. He's the son of a Chinese restaurant owner and he's the CONCERT MASTER of the S orchestra. He's a good friend of Nodame's.

Okuyama Masumi
4th year Orchestral Music student. He's a timpanist. Okuyama is also in love with Chiaki and thinks Nodame is his rival. Okuyama is a cute boy with a mustache!

Franz von Stresemann
(also calls himself Milch Holstein) He's a world famous conductor from Germany (supposedly). Since he came, he's only conducted seriously at the school festival.

Minako Momodaira (Nickname: Mina) She's the Director of the university that Nodame attends. There was a romance between Milch and her in the past. They know each other very well.



Nodame Cantabile

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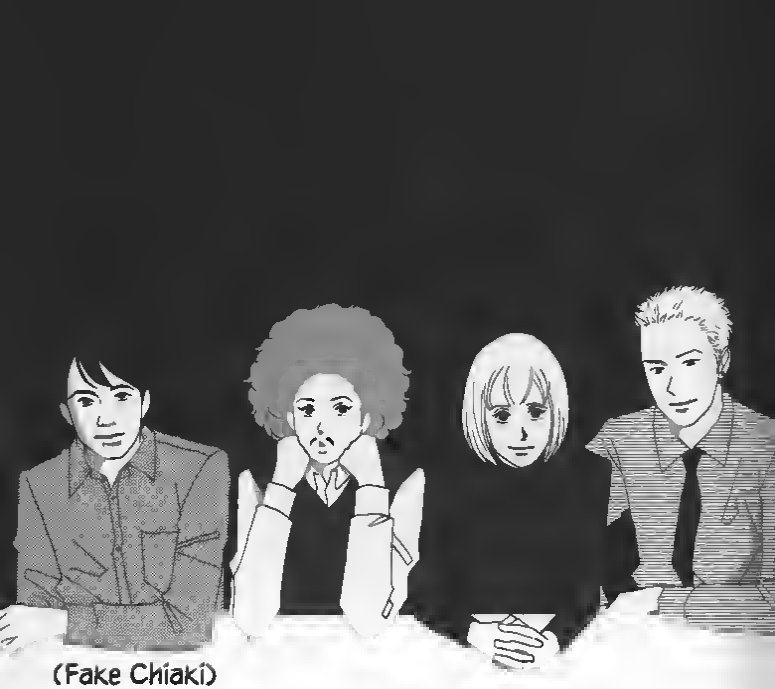
TOMOKO NINOMIYA



(Fake Chiaki)

Lesson 24

OCTOBER
A costume orchestra!?
The school festival season is coming.
Yeah!
Let's do it the night before the school festival!
AFTER EXAMS
Yeah! I want to wear a dress!
Yes!
Yes!
A princess dress!

KYAA!
キャー!!
Let's see if anyone else in the S orchestra will do it!
Nodame will make a stuffed animal costume to wear!♡
Yeah! Make whatever you like and wear it!
HA HA HA
KYAA
キャー
How about if the piano course students all play pianica?
I can!
Ah...
I can do it too.
Me too.
I'll do it too!
I'll do it.♡ I love costumes!
SAKURA-CHAN
Huh... Maki-chan...!?
I want to join you too!!
Oh, please!
DESPERATE!!

Are you going to make that all by yourself?
She's from Bembera.
Who's that!?
Of course! Because I want it to fit me right!
Wow! That looks like Mrs. Polignac!
I'm also going to be joining the marimba ensemble, so I'll be busy practicing too.
I have to hurry up and buy some lace and material. ♡
My dream dress ♡
Well...
the Great Master did say that from now on, Chiaki will be rehearsing a piano concerto with the A orchestra...
Eh! Masumi-chan, are you going to join another orchestra!?
You're not going to join another one?
You're only gonna be in the costume orchestra?

* A Russian-born classical music composer whose style was strongly influenced by Chopin and Liszt. Most of his songs purveyed the Russian atmosphere and you can feel the Russian romantic spirit.

I'll never lose to him!!
Hey! Nodame!
Yes?

Chiaki, you're playing it too fast!
Hm...
Eh!?
Can you try playing it slower?
Don't worry about Russia or the orthodox way to play it!

Like this. ♡
Make it more beautiful and romantic...
GYRATE
GYRATE
Ah... That part...
Chiaki, when you play fast it sounds too light and flat!
It's not sexy at all!
But... why do I have to twist like that just to play Rachmaninoff?
Play it... sexy?
GULP
Play it. sexy?
Absorbed...
I'm not saying you have to twist!
What I'm saying is you should be more absorbed in the music!!

Chiaki, you've studied piano for four years now at this university.
You're the number one player!
You should show off how good you are.
This is a wonderful opportunity that doesn't come often in life...
You need to learn from this!
No.....
And the conductor is going to be me!
Any comments!?
If your performance is substandard, I will never forgive you!!

This is a really great experience for me...
Yes, sir!
I never thought I could be recognized at this school because of that "puffer" teacher.
I've been studying piano so I could be a conductor who also plays piano professionally
But I can perform with Stresemann as a player.
I don't want to end up substandard either!!

I'm getting home late tonight.
I'm hungry... I wonder what I should do for dinner...
Maybe I shouldn't let her come over tonight...!!
CROWL
Nodame
I wonder if she's waiting? (for her dinner)
It's a bother to cook...
But I should eat...
Although... I'd rather just practice right away...
Chiaki-sempai!
I wonder if she'd cry...
He's stuck-up

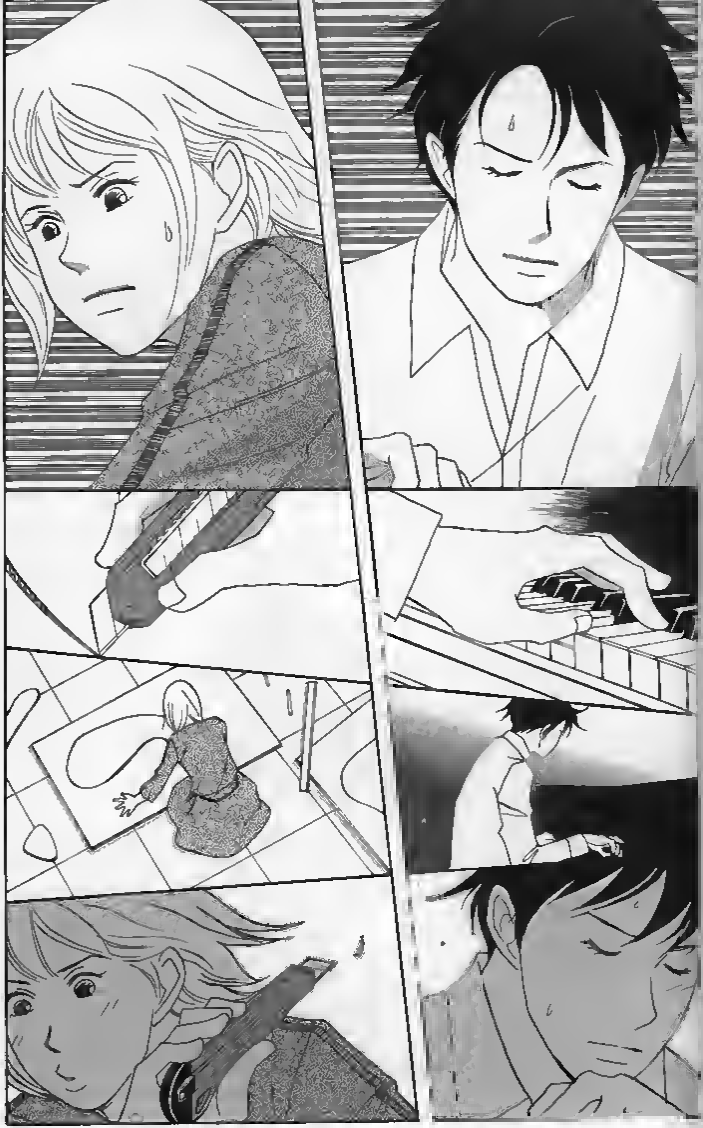
Huh... You were still at school!?
Yes! I was busy preparing for the school festival.
PHEW
I finally found you.
I'm going to be busy with Mine-kun and the others making preparations... So I think I'll be coming home late for awhile.
And, Sempai...
I have some sad news...
I'll be eating at Uraken.
I know you'll miss me, but would you please have your dinner alone?
I'm sorry. ♡

GYABO~
ぎゃぼー
Who cares about your sad news!?
He's our enemy now, stay away from him!
Good! You did a good job, Nodame!
WHAA!
なんで!
WHY!?
Pat
Pat
Yesterday's friends are today's enemies.
GRAB
クイ
Hau!?
Don't ever come over to my apartment again!!
OWW
あう~
Sempai
Oh, Maki-chan!!
KYA
キャー
Mine-san! ♡

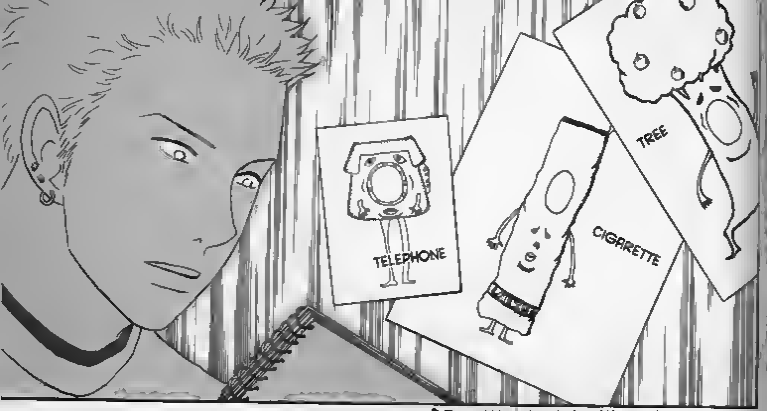
You wanna come and have a drink? We're gonna have a meeting for the costume orchestra.
KYAA
That sounds good! Do you want to do it at my restaurant?
At Uraken!?
KYAA
Yeah, at Uraken
HA HA HA
Maki-chan..

Normally I wouldn't want to play a concerto...
But now I want to be the best I can!!
This is the first time I've heard Chiaki-kun play piano...
He really is a great player!
CONCERT MASTER FOR THE ORCHESTRA
Great...
That's the most exciting part!!
You need to express the emotion with your whole body!!
What are you doing?
Eh?
Stop!
And this time, the Great Master is really conducting...
Chiaki!!

I can't do that...
Look! You get embarrassed easily.
I don't perform like Mine does.
Show agony?
Not again...
For instance, you need to show agony like this...!
Chiaki, you don't understand yourself at all!
Violins! Do it like ta ra ra ra, n ta~!
OK, let's play it one more time.
Play beautifully in this part!
Show off...
Show off to the audience.
This is an important thing to learn.



So do you.
She looks like she's really into it.
What is Nodame making?
A pattern for an animal costume.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
It looks like she's doing a good job...
What kind of animal?
I don't know...
She said it's a secret.
How about you, Mine-chan?
Have you decided what costume you're going to wear?
I'm done designing your costume...
KYAA
Choose the one you like best. ♡
Ah!
Mine-san!
That girl! She's my fan. ♡
Ah... me?
Well, uh... A girl who's a fan of the concert master for the S orchestra said she'd design one for me.



The real Maki-chan designed these... Thank you!

KLAK
Ahh...
He wouldn't do it.
Hey, I can ask Chiaki-sempai. ♡
For the costume orchestra...
We don't have one.
Ah/ あっ
By the way... Who's gonna be conductor?
Don't we need one?
I'm Ohkouchi from the conducting class.
He's become a little more modest.
I can conduct if you'd like me to.
But let's get one thing straight.
Huh/
And you want to join the costume orchestra?
I'm not gonna wear a costume.
HA HA HA
Ah/
Ohkouchi? Do you know him?
No...
You're the one who's been checking us out the last few days.

Chiaki-sama doesn't wear weird pants like that!
You don't even look close to Chiaki-sama!!
KYAA
And where did you buy that shirt!!?
That belt and shoes too!
Your hair's not even close either!!
I can't stand it!
OH!
PFF
To look like Chiaki?
Eh? You aren't gonna wear a costume?
Eh?
ANGER
Hey! What are you talking about!? I'll kill you!!
Hey...
You can conduct if you want to.
PAT
GRRRRR
Give me salt!
Masumi-chan! That's enough.
His hair is weird, too
WRRR77
YEAH!
Let's start rehearsals today!!
Now!
We have all the members we need.

I'm already in enough agony...
Like I'm agonized...
The Japanese are truly hard workers.
ROSES & PLUTONIUM
I told him "This is an important thing to learn." He's eager to be well-trained.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
Ah! Mina, Mina!
Look at this!
You should work hard too.
HA HA HA
This comic is funny.
How about a costume like this for Chiaki?
Do you think everyone would like it?
Pfu pfu...
Franz...
You...
Have I ever joked around in a performance?
Joking around?
No way!
You weren't even at the performance earlier!!
I had a stomach ache!
are joking around too much.

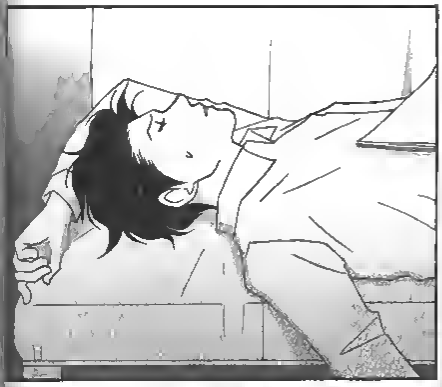
May God forgive me!
Mina... Are you serious?
LETTER OPENER
Even old women...
Chiaki's amazing...
と
すっ
TWING
That's not it!!
Stop manipulating Chiaki!!
I'll never forgive you!!
Hn...
Don't belittle our students and school festival!!
Anyway! Stop joking around!!

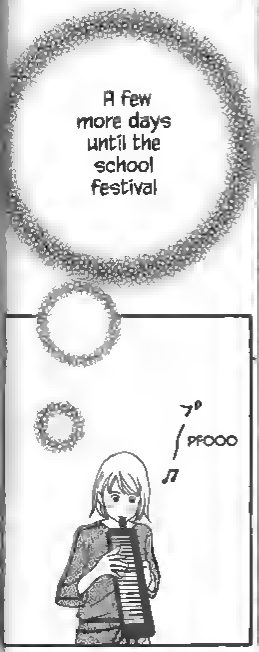
Hello?
This is Momogaoka Music University.
R
R
R
R
R
R
But...
even if I don't manipulate him...
Wow. Again!
He will be performing in the school festival.
Yes, with Stresemann.
Huh? Chiaki Shinichi?
Again...
Yes, yes...

He's in this article!
WORLD MUSICIANS GATHERING FOR 8 DAYS
What's this all about!?
RRR
KLUNK
Stresemann? Yes... He'll be conducting this time for sure.
Chiaki-kun!
Wow! It's for real!

This is great!
This article says "He's Masayuki Chiaki's son and Stresemann's only pupil."
I didn't know that Nina Lutz was in this festival!
Wow! Chiaki conducted?

Do you regret breaking up?
Oh, "your ex"?
He's in this month's "Classic Life."
Look!
This is about your ex-boyfriend!
Look, look! Saiko
Eh?
Chiaki-kun's really made a comeback.
He was struggling a year ago.
Well, he is talented.




PFOOO

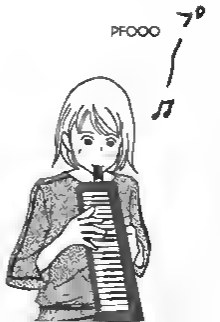
This journalist for Classic Life...
is a woman for sure!
I think so!
AHAHA

NODAME CANTABILE

Lesson 25
WE SERVE ALCOHOL FROM 5 O'CLOCK
S
S

TASTY FRIED NOODLES
S
S
SAUCE
TASTY! THE S ORCHESTRA
FRIED NOODLES

NODAME CANTABILE



November
Momogaoka Music University - The night before the school festival
FRIED NOODLES
PIANO COURSE RICE OMELET RESTAURANT
RIGHT NEXT TO F HALL
CREPES
TENNIS CIRCLE
MOMOGAOKA MU
WE HAVE NOODLES
INFORMATION GUIDE
FLOP

FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
Hey... What's that?
A wedding!?
At the school festival?
They're not the parents, are they...?

DRESSING ROOM
HEE
Masumi-chan, you look gorgeous...
Why aren't you in your costumes!?
Why are you guys wearing montsukihakamas and kimonos?
Masumi-chan's dress is 17th-century French.
GYAA
Why are you wearing that!?

COMPLAIN
COMPLAIN
COMPLAIN
My nurse's costume looked good on me...
Huh!?
My Barbie costume looked good on me too

My costume...
It didn't look good on me, so I changed my mind!!

My goal was to put our orchestra in cool costumes!!
This is not a joke!!
Don't worry about it, Maki-chan...
Shut up!!
So you didn't look good as a cigarette, but why do we all have to wear the same thing as you!?
Mine...
All your costumes looked awful!!
Otherwise we won't be able to beat Chiaki!!
Natural Prince, Chiaki (Mine's image of Chiaki)
Huh
Apart from it not looking cool... it is comfortable.
Nice
My costume's...
outstanding.
Looks good on me.
She's sexy
We didn't even have to pay anything for them because we borrowed them from our parents. ♡
This was a nice idea.

Excuse me!
You'll be okay, Masumi-chan. You can still wear the dress you made.
HA HA HA HA
You're gonna be blocked by something anyway.
No!
What am I supposed to do!?
Wait a minute!!
I'm the only one wearing a dress!!
Will I be okay, too?
What are you supposed to be?
MUGYA むぎゃ
I'm Nodame.
Who are you?
I'm a mongoose. ♡

Mongoose
I don't get it...
You worked so hard on it and that's it?
Piece of crap
What are you holding, Nodame-chan?
A snake?
Oh. ♡
This is a habu!
There are lots of them in Okinawa.
The Okinawans have a snake problem with habus
so they released mongooses on the island because they're good at killing snakes.
Really? And...
now the habu are gone from the island?
No. The mongooses didn't catch the snakes. Instead they ate the amami black rabbits which are declared a national treasure in Japan.
Now they're overrun with mongooses.

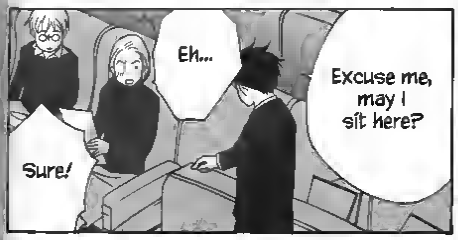
So now you can get 2000 yen if you catch a mongoose and bring it to the government office in Okinawa.
And, so?
He's still troubled
Why is that important?
"Be sexy" "Show agony" by Milch
"Show off"...
OHHH
わ〜

Shinichi!
Why don't you have a cup of tea with us?
The crepes are really good!
Saiko
SIGH
No thanks.
I was just leaving.
You hurt me...
You broke my heart...
Hey, wait!
Why have you been giving me the cold shoulder lately?

By the way.
Are you really going to be playing a piano concerto!?
Yeah.
HMM
After getting dropped by Eto-sensei, I thought you had given up.
Good for you.
That's great.
I also didn't know that you had become Stresemann's pupil.
I feel like you're so far away now...
Hn...
Not much has changed.
Really...
Ah!

Cosi Fan Tutte.
For the Opera Club? What are you performing?
Eh?
I'm going to perform in an opera on stage tomorrow!
Why don't you come to see it?
That's Mozart.
HUH
It' begins at 10. It's early but
I wish you'd come see it.
I'm performing well these days.
See you!
She's performing well...
I should try harder.
There's nothing I want to see tonight.
I'd better go home and practice piano...

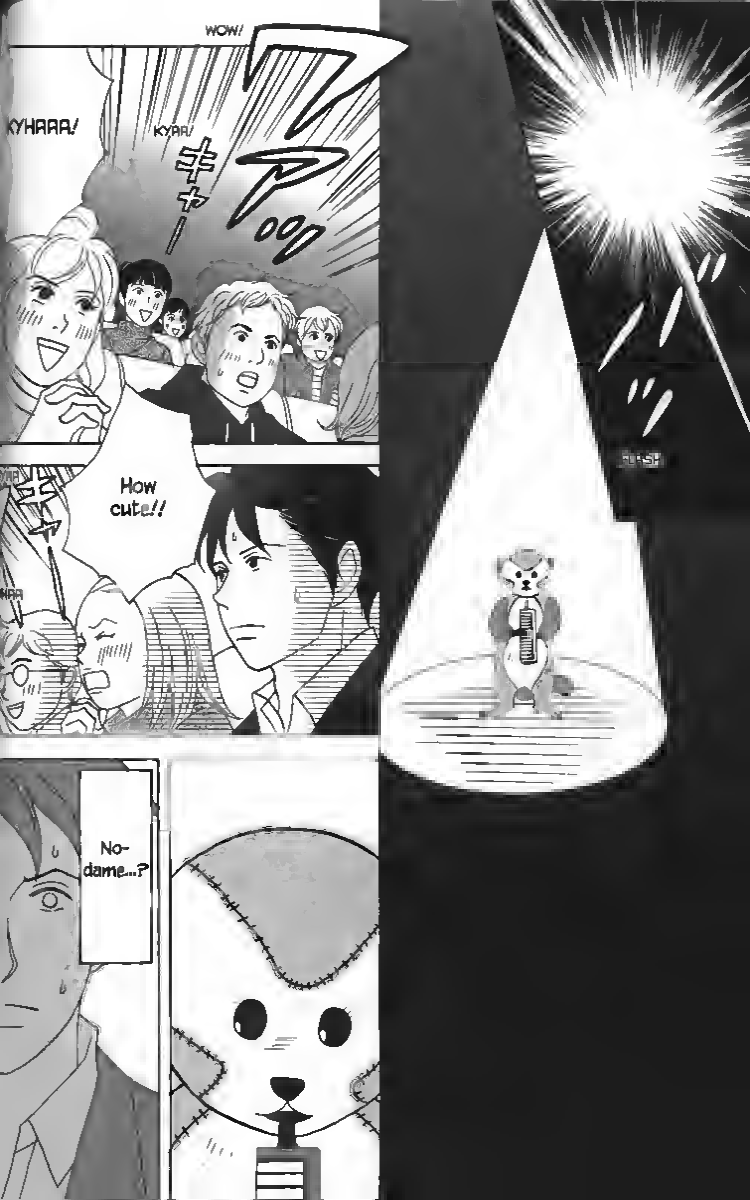
On the eve of the festival at 5:00 PM Black Hall
S orchestra
A legend of the stage
Don't come to see us alone
CURRY CLUB
Ah~~!
Eh...
S
The S orchestra is gonna play again!?
CHATTER
It sounds fun. Let's go see it!
What are they gonna play?
CHATTER
S orchestra
MYSTERIOUS TRIO CURRY CLUB
A HA HA HA! What's this!?
They think they're legends and they haven't even performed!
HA HA HA



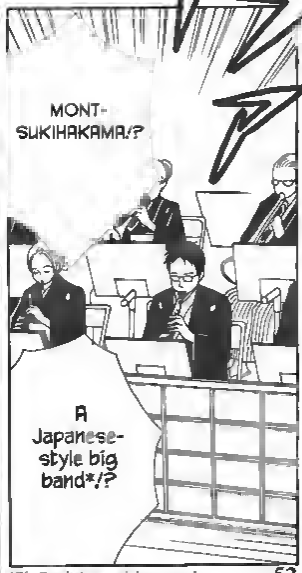
FESTIVAL EVE
NOVEMBER 1ST
BLACK HALL
17:00 S ORCHESTRA
PROGRAM: TBA

I didn't know the S orchestra was still active.

Are they gonna play in the dark?
Ah!
Is that the orchestra coming out!?
No way.
What's going on?
Did the electricity go off?
Why did the stage lights go off...?
LA
Oh!
A
That's a pianica...
They're tuning.
But why
is a pianica tuning?


WOW!
KYHAAA!
KYAA!
キャー
How cute!!
No-dame...?

OHHHH
Rhapsody in Blue!!*
*Composed by George Gershwin in 1924
It's Nodame.



*Big Band: Jazz and dance music played by an orchestra

You guys look cool!!
Hey hey...

The song arrangement is good.
The pianicas are even playing their own part.
They play the small parts carefully.
Uh...
That again...?

KYAAA
キャー
WHAAA
They did it!
That's what I was waiting for!!
Those girls are sexy. ♡

They're showing off...
He shows agony in his solo.
Now I see.
Mine looks like an idiot.

Pian·ca duet

Mitch was sitting behind him.

↖ Loves the admiration

Cheers!!
And also for our legend!!
Well...
PA HA HA
Cheers!!
This is the fifth time.
We're legends!
It serves the A orchestra right!
We're the winners!
Let's celebrate the big success of the S orchestra...

HA HA HA
HOWAA
It's cold...
ゴロ
PLOP
HA HA HA
KYAA
The legendary S.orchestra
オー
スオー
Chiaki-sempai
I tried hard.
I wonder if he watched me on stage...
The S orches-tra...
They gave a good perfor-mance.

I'm gonna be the star of this festival.
Sorry, Mine.
But I trust myself
I'm going to perform my own way.

PIANO COURSE
BEAUTY CAFE
THMP
THMP
THMP
ブチッ
RIP
The last day of the festival
OMOGAOKA MUS
Mukya!!

Should we go grab seats now?
At 5 o'clock.
What time does the concert begin?
I want to see the real Stresemann.
RRRRG
ひぃぃ
What the heck is this crowd for!?
There are too many people here!
He's in Japan.
We don't know when he's gonna die.
He's gonna perform with his pupil today!
The son of famous pianist Masaaki Chiaki and Haruko Stresemann's only pupil. Shinichi Chiaki (Nomogaoka Music School 9th). The school's hope.
Is he Stresemann's pupil?
I knew about him before that. ♡
HNN フン
He's cool.
That's Chiaki-kun! Right?
Did you read about him in *Classic Life*?

He doesn't have any experience for the piano contest...
He's still a student, right?
Is he really a good player?
I don't know if he's a good player.
I don't know.
Classic Life reporter Keiko Kawano
But I'm not going to write a review!
Yeah.
The Great Master and Rachmaninoff.
It's just about the university festival!
No working today!
It sounds fun to see, doesn't it?
But Stresemann's conducting, and they're playing your favorite Rachmaninoff piece, Sakuma-san.

I wonder if I should comb my hair back.
GATAN
ガターン
A HA HA
アハハ
CHKL
カチ
You look fine, Chiaki. ♡

I want to tell you something...
I'm going to play my way!
!?
When did you come in here...?
HA HA HA
I think you'd better comb your hair back a little bit. ♡
You don't want to wear a tie?
Of course.
Play it your way.
はあ!?
You said "show agony" and "be sexier"...
HUH?
Ah--
Don't worry about that anymore.
That's enough...

I'm going to do my best.
And I want to show off to Mina.
?
Well...
I'm going to have to say good-bye to Japan for awhile.
Well...
Fun music time begins.
Let's go.

4

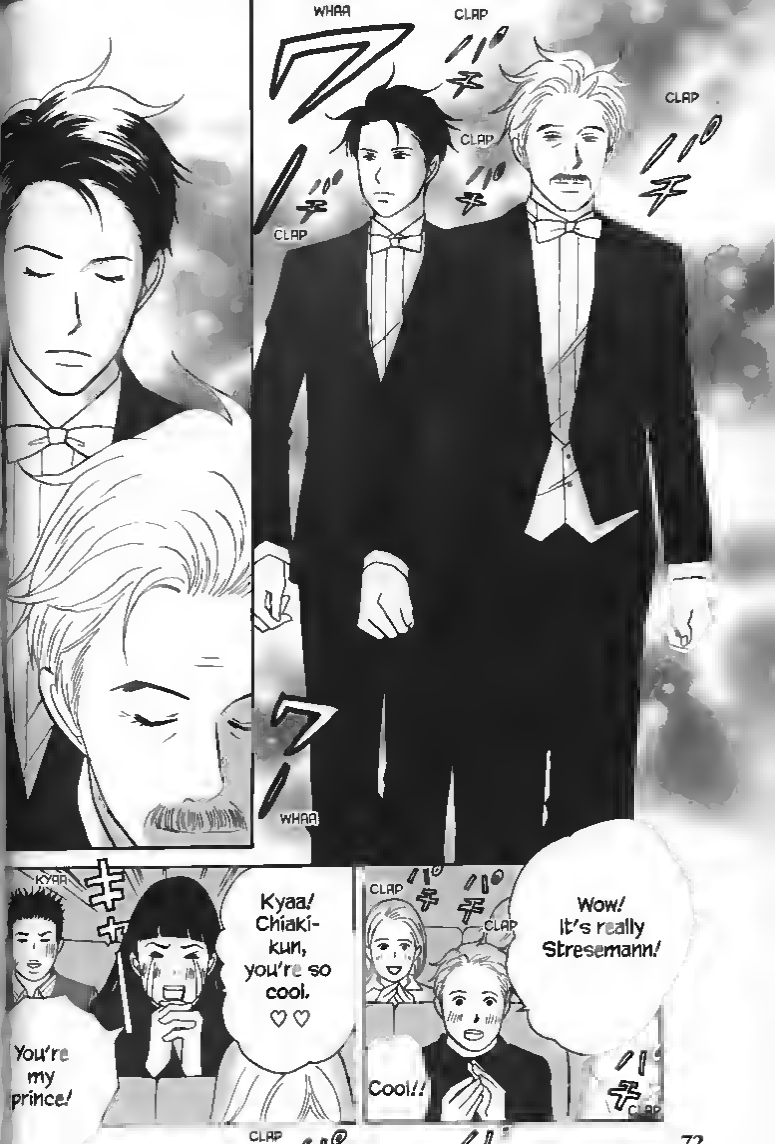
MUKYAA

NODAME CANTABILE

Lesson 26

Nodame!
Hurry up, hurry up!!
KYAA
Chiaki-sama's concerto is almost starting!
But I'm still wearing my stuffed animal costume...
TUG
TUG
TAIL
That's okay! You can go wearing your costume!
Hurry up or we'll have to stand to watch it!
There are no seats left!?
STEP STEP
Wow! That's cute!

TUNING
TUNING
ピ
BEEEP
WHAAA!


WHAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WHAA!
KYAA
Kyaa! Chiaki-kun, you're so cool. ♡♡
You're my prince!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Wow! It's really Stresemann!
Cool!!
CLAP

I'll admit that he looks good
but I'm gonna laugh if he isn't a good player.
He may be the Great Master's pupil, but did he inherit his dad's talent?
Shinichi Chiaki...
And also he's performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2!
That's a famous piece and I think the audience will be paying very close attention.

Well...
Fun music time begins.

ピアノ
ピアノ
CHYAN
チャーン
DUNNN
ダーン
DUNNN
ダーン
CHYAN
チャーン

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF
PIANO CONCERTO NO.2

At this moment
the music is pulling us in.

The audience is tense with anticipation of each note. The piano prelude makes a sudden strong impact.
His arpeggio* is delicate but its power hits you like a dagger through the heart.
And
the orchestra will hit like a tsunami.
*Arpeggio: Playing the notes in a chord one at a time in quick succession from top to bottom or in reverse

What a beautiful performance of Rachmaninoff!!
The orchestra's playing is delicate but dynamic.
Oh--
Each layer is constructed perfectly.

2ND MOVEMENT
Adagio sostenuto
He is "real."
The Great Master is really here.
And so is he.

3RD MOVEMENT
Allegro scherzando

I don't want to stop.
But it's going to end soon.
There's more I want him to teach me...

I want to hear more...
and I still want to feel
your music....

FUU

FLIFLOP

WHAA
WHAAAA!
どかっ
OVATION
WHAA
Bravo!!
CLAP
CLAP
WHAA
Bravo!!
CLAP
WHAA
Chiaki...

Why don't you get it yourself?
Can you pass me a cigarette?
You're not supposed to act like that.
I'm going to be saying good-bye soon.
You'd better slow down with the alcohol, cigarettes...
and women...
You're an old man...

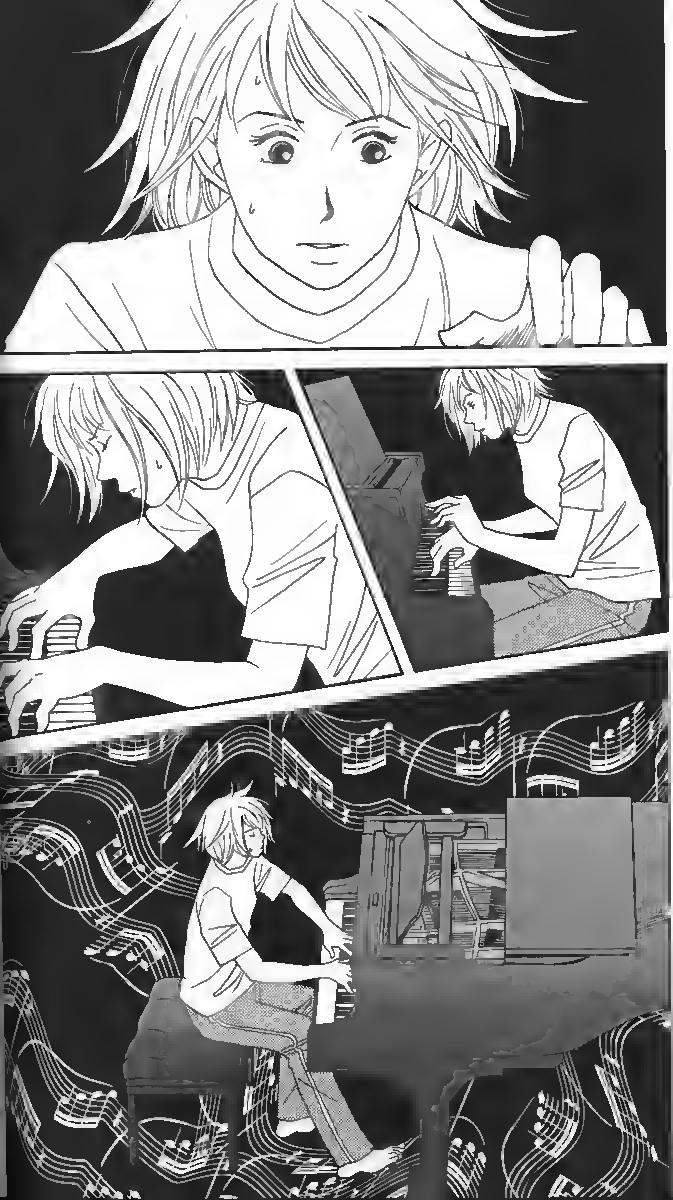
and please live longer.
Don't overdo it
Old man...
if I don't have alcohol, cigarettes and women.
I'll die

I don't understand how he can play piano so well.
Chiaki was amazing.
I was impressed.
His fingers move so smoothly
But... He wants to be a conductor, right?
The orchestra was great too.
I cried.
That was a great piano concerto.
PIANO COURSE STUDENTS
I wonder if he could be considered a "genius"?
What is he thinking!?
Just wasting his talents
Shinichi...
Shinichi

Sakuma-san!
I under-stand, but we have to leave!
My series draft "Dream Color ☆ Classic" for this month...
Is it possible to switch to another one?
Hey...
We are...
in 2nd place.
BEER

Piano
A HA HA HA
You have one more year.
That's okay. We can try again.
WHAA
Piano
I have to play piano!!
MUKYAA
ムキャー

Lesson 27



That was a very strange Rachmaninoff...
Although interesting.
パチパチ
CLAP CLAP
But you can't perform with an orchestra if you play like that.
パチパチ
Why!?
Milch!
I want to play a piano concerto with an orchestra, too!!

It's impossible.
Milch! Give me a chance!!
Nodame... is enjoying it!
.....
Why did you say that!?
Nodame-chan, you have to face the music right on
Otherwise, you'll never truly enjoy the music from your heart

Milch!?
I must go now...
Ah, look at the time.
Nodame-chan, take care.
I'm looking forward to seeing you again.
Wait! Milch!!
Don't forget to lock your door at home...

CHIRP
チュン
チュン
CHIRP
HAH
Was I dreaming...?

Will the early bird catch the worm?
HEE!
HEE!
ZZZZZ
ロン

We had a good time yesterday, didn't we? ♡
Ah ♡ Good morning, Shin-chan.
Do you want a cup of coffee?
CLUB ONE MORE KISS
MAMA SHIHOKO
for four days, since the school festival ended
Oh, yeah...
the Great Master dragged me around Roppongi (club)
We went drinking in Roppongi...
Cheers!
Kyoto (Geisha)
and the hot springs (table tennis).
and ended up in his room at the hotel.
mountain of Hostesses...
Super-sulta / count (one night for 500,000 yen)

THROB
ガン
THROB
ガン
THROB
ガン
THROB
ガン
Ah...
Where's the old man?
Some scary foreign woman took him away this morning..
GLUG
ゴクッ
GLUG
ゴクッ
Dragging him by his neck.
Elise!?
Chiaki, ich habe dich einen Wunsch. Bitte schick mir den Bildband von Mei Anzai "Race Queen Rhapsody", den an Weihnachten veröffentlicht wird.
フォン・フォン・ニートレーゼマン
"Chiaki------
My wish for you..."
For sale at Christmas, please send me Mei Anzai's photo collection "Race Queen Rhapsody."

FRANZ VON STRESEMANN
おい！
Implacable pangs
which torment me
Do not subside within
my being
Until my anguish
brings me death

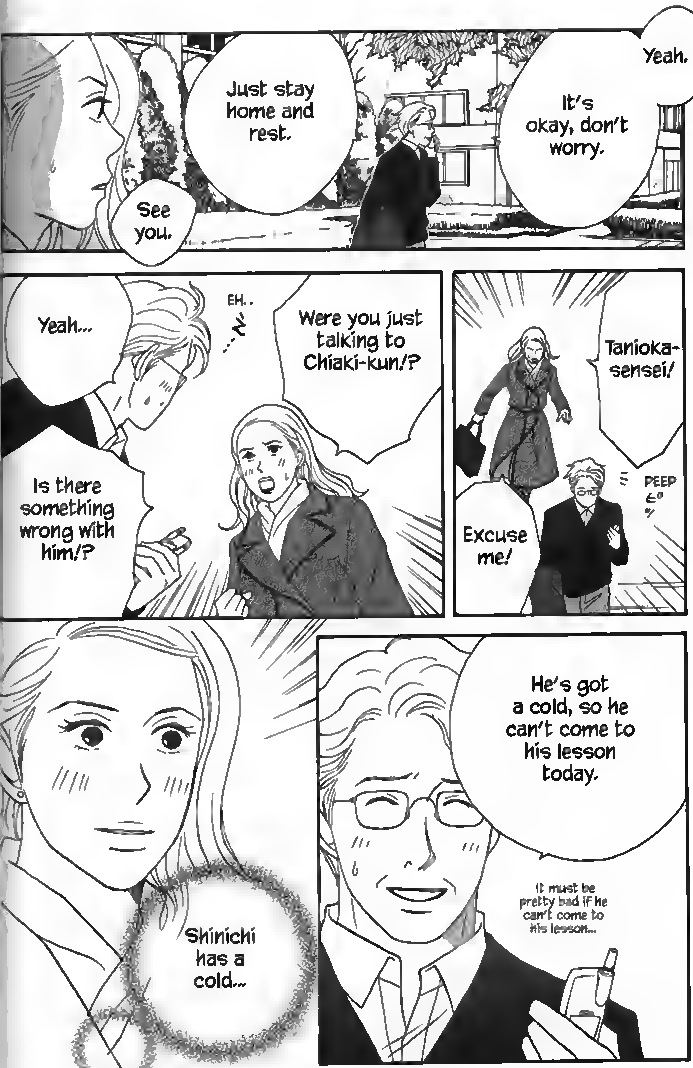
If I remain alive, I will furnish the furies with a wretched example
of tragic love with the dreadful sound of my sighs.
Dorabella's aria from the opera "Cosi Fan Tutte" that we performed at the school festival
Stop!
You don't have to take a breath inside every line.
implacabile~~~~
Sing it more smoothly!
Legato!

Express more of Dorabella's feelings of insecurity!
I performed as Dorabella's sister, Fiordiligi, at the school festival.
Wrong!
Don't perform it like you're in hysterics!
Sing with dynamics!
PHEW
ふ…
You saw Suganuma-san's performance of Dorabella, right?
Sing like she did with emotion...!
Suganuma again!!

KYAA
KYAA
That song for your cell sounds nice.
HA HA HA
Sounds cool!
You think so?
Yamamoto-kun!
Do you want to go get some lunch?
Y... Yeah!!
You already ate.
Eh...
I'll go!! I'll go!!
Do you want to come, too, Suganuma-san?
I... I have an early lesson this afternoon...

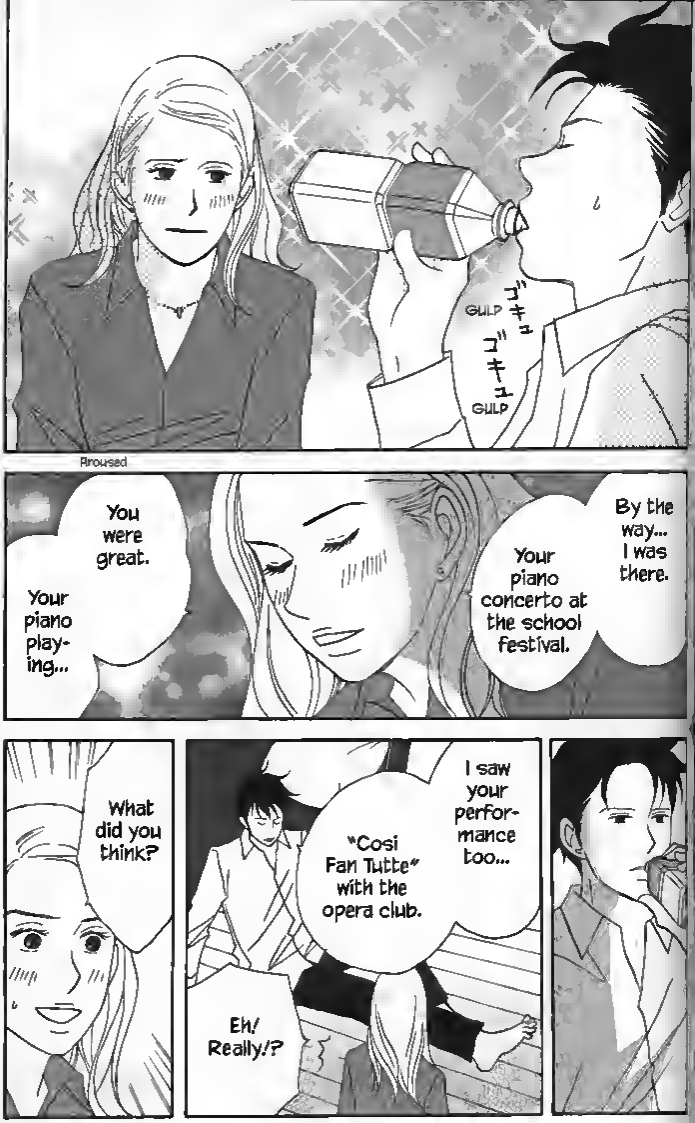
1 year ago
Saya Suganuma
Your lesson took longer than usual today.
I could hear you singing.
She's my rival in the vocal course and she stole the role of The Night Queen in "The Magic Flute" from me last year.
She's falling in love with Yamamoto-kun, our #1 tenor, and I hear she's been dieting for a year.
Fatso!!
Oh.
Good luck ♡
She's still dieting.
The teacher's been correcting me a lot lately.
What an idiot! She knows he wants me!

If I had to perform Dorabella the nasty way Suganuma did, it would embarrass me.
That still weighs on my mind...
It's because of Suganuma!
You did a good job with Fiordiligi. Didn't you like performing Dorabella?
She overrates her too much!
"Sing like she did, with emotion...!
The teacher doesn't understand me.
I don't want to perform Dorabella like that!!
Are you all right, Chiaki-kun?


Yeah.
It's okay, don't worry.
Just stay home and rest.
See you.
Yeah...
EH..
Were you just talking to Chiaki-kun!?
Is there something wrong with him!?
Tanioka-sensei!
PEEP
Excuse me!
He's got a cold, so he can't come to his lesson today.
It must be pretty bad if he can't come to his lesson...
Shinichi has a cold...

I know we've broken up...
but I never needed an excuse to go see him before.
Huh!
Saiko-chan!?
She's gone already!
Eh...
Saiko!?
Now what's the matter!?
He's been giving me the cold shoulder lately.

Huh?
Why aren't you wearing your pajamas?
HNN
Tanioka-sensei told me you had a cold.
So I brought you some food and medicine.
JUST AN EXCUSE
You've been out drinking with the Great Master for four days!?
I can't believe it!
So, I just got home...
FEVER REDUCE
RURU A
Eh! You're hung over!
Yeah.
Do you want some water?


ゴキュ
GULP
ゴキュ
GULP
Aroused
By the way... I was there.
Your piano concerto at the school festival.
You were great.
Your piano playing...
I saw your performance too...
"Cosi Fan Tutte" with the opera club.
Eh! Really!?
What did you think?

Yeah. You were good.
You have more power in your lower register now.
Really!?
Your low voice in the aria from Fiordiligi
Your Bb and A notes come out much more clearly now.
But the girl who sang Dorabella
I thought she made a bigger impact!
You have more technique than she does.
She was bold and fresh... but a little less precise.
But her performance was kind of comical at times.
Anyway, I think she has acting talent!

If you let your malicious personality come through more, would your singing be less inhibited?
You're always like a princess when you perform. You're not fun.
You have a beautiful voice.
Ah...
I'm gonna take a bath...
and wash off the alcohol

And I...
We always fought.
Okay, I'm awful!
HIGH SCHOOL AGE
His music has always been more important to him than me!!
But... Shinichi was always more talented than everyone else
And also harder on himself than anyone else.
GACHYA
UNIVERSITY AGE
He was just as strict to everyone when it came to his music.
I had a difficult time with him.

I'll be graduating from the university soon...
GRCHYA
If I were to quit singing...
If I quit my music...
I wonder if we could work things out?

Saiko
Did she leave?
PHEW
Grave of the Fireflies
STINK
Nodame!?
STINK
I'm Nodame.
Are you still wearing your costume or something!?
No, I'm not.
Lock the doors...

Let me play a concerto with the S orchestra!!
Sempai!
Eh...
The same piece you played...
Nodame practiced it a lot!
Eh...
You stink...
Just like you played it
I want to play it, too!
Who!? Who is that!?
How many days has it been since you took a bath?

Again!!?
My gas is..
Perfect harmony
Go home and take a bath!!
How many days... What's today?
Howaa~ You washed them...
Here are the clothes you left the other day!
But I don't have any clean clothes to...
Okay, then take a bath here!
I want to play it, too!!
CHOP CHOP CHOP
トントントン
KRSHHHHH
ザー
ビャーコ
KLANG
ビャーコ
KLANG
Brush your teeth, too!
I hid your toothbrush in the cabinet.

I wonder if all she's done is practice...
since she heard my concerto?
And that's how she got like this...
Come on! Eat it!
It's mushroom and cheese risotto.
I don't have an appetite...
PUI

GYABO!
Just eat it!!
That girl...
MUKYA!
Eat it!
Who is she!?

Lesson 28

Something strange is happening...
Concerto first...
with the S orchestra.
Come on...
You've lost a lot of weight...
You need to eat first...
You don't read the notes!
Why!?
It's impossible for you to play!!
You play carelessly! You make it up!

I've heard Rachmaninoff a couple of times, so I don't have to look at the sheet music.
How can an orchestra harmonize with you!?
I know that piece!
Eh...
And...
The sound of your piano is still in my head...
I want to play it...
like you did...

Nodame...
Okay...
If you're so sure then play it for me.
Eh!?
Your Rach-maninoff.
Let's go to the school!
We'll need two pianos.
Sempai...

Is that his new girl-friend?
No way...
CREEEK
Go get a jacket!
RUN
RUN
Okay!
SLAM
He didn't call her that...
That's not their song!
That's not it!
HA HA HA

BANN
If you're just playing around, can you let us use the pianos?
はぅ…
HAUU
ANEMIC
Oh...
Of course!!
No prob-lem!
Chiaki-sama!!
BATAN
I'm going to play the part of the orchestra.
You play the piano part.

NOD
コクン
Play like there's an orchestra here, okay?
All right, whenever you're ready.
CRACK
BANN
バーン
ピアノ

What...
DOKONN
ドゴーン
DANN
ダーン!!
You play the first pianissimo as fortissimo?
DONN
ドン!!
DANN
ダーン…

Act.1
What piece is this!?
How can she play it at this tempo!
It's too fast!!

Is that Rachmaninoff's piano concerto number two?
A duet!?
Is Chiaki-sama playing!?
No way!
Then that means it's that girl?
No, that's not him!
Huh?
Chiaki-sama is accompanying...

Too many extra notes!!
You see, she's just making it up!
And she's been sloppy from the start
Is she just improvising?

No way.
This isn't the concerto...
Should I stop her?
Damnit!
I'm going to try to follow her
Listen to what I'm playing!!

Amazing!
No way!
CHATTER
CHATTER

It's too fast!
Amazing technical skill but...
Who is that girl?
CURIOUS
CURIOUS
She's great!
Is she the mongoose from the S orchestra?
HUH/?
That's Chiaki-sama's girlfriend, right?!?
EH
You're kidding me!?
They're always talking about dinner.
Is the rumor that they're living together true!?
I know!
She's always with him.
I saw them together today..
I saw her holding his arm when they were walking.

Really?
No wonder.
By the way...
Her piano playing is sloppy
but they play really well together.
who is she?

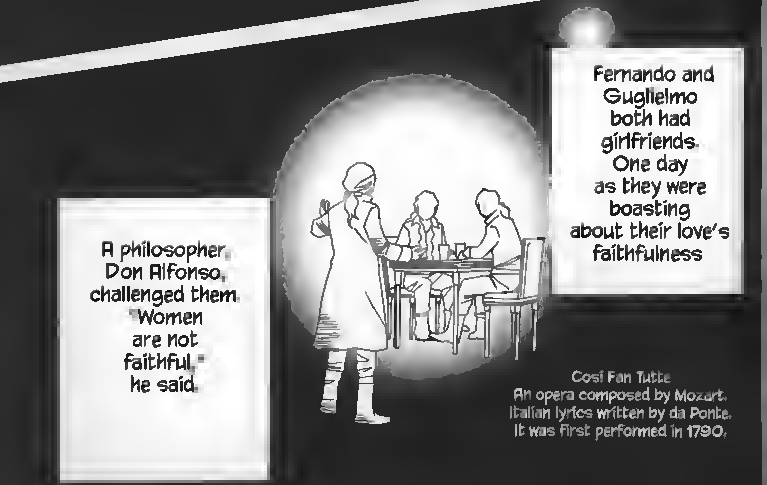
Enough!
That's enough!
Please stop!
TEA
Hey
Nodame

Hey...
I don't know what to do with her...
IT'S COLD...
It's already nine o'clock...
We should go now!
Come on!
PUGO
She played it twice and then fainted.
PHEW...
PUGO

Poor Dorabella...
PHH
Her heart's completely broken.
Hey, hey! Did you hear?
She's Chiaki-sama's girl-friend...
Yuck! No way! She's the one!?
Huh?
Eh
What do you mean?
Her heart's broken? No way!
Didn't those two break up a long time ago?

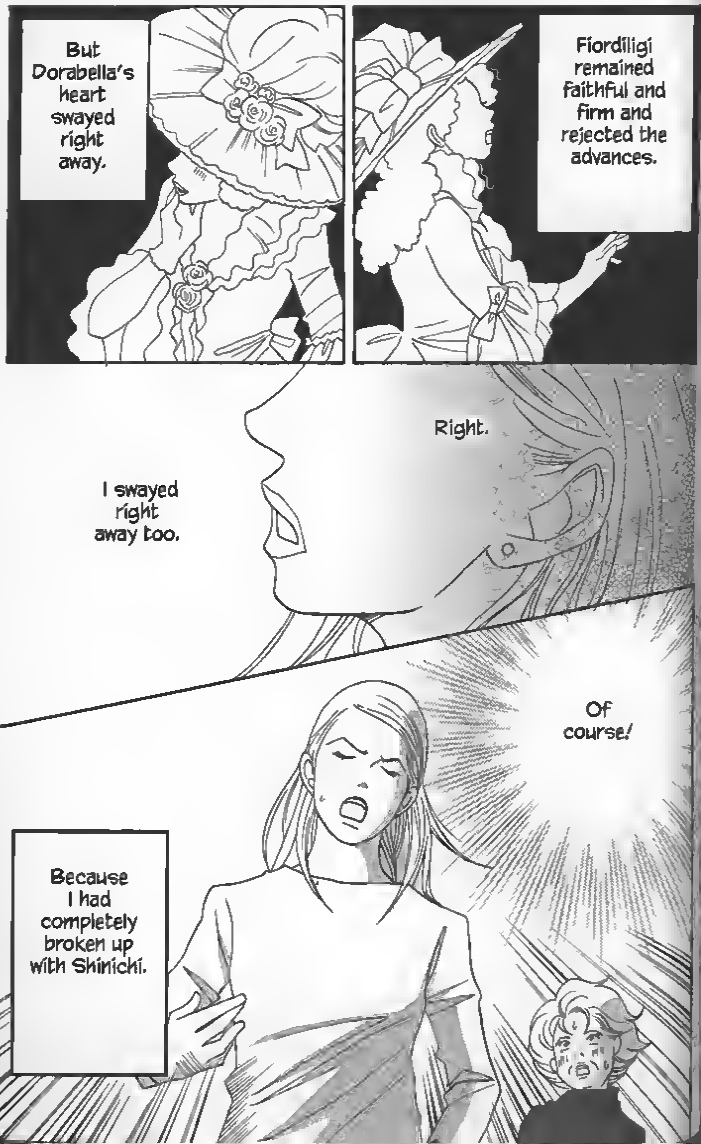
The preppy guy and those other two.
I think it's been three guys...
Right, right... And hasn't Saiko-chan already dated two more guys since then?
By the way...
Why do you call Saiko-chan "Dorabella?"
That's the role that you performed
In "Cosi Fan Tutte."
Eh? Don't you think she acts like her?
Suga-numa!!
GYAA
HA HA HA
She'd kill you if she heard that!
Every time Dorabella breaks up with a man
"Shinichi~♡"
WAAAH
She always runs back to Chiaki-kun.

Così Fan Tutte


A philosopher, Don Alfonso, challenged them. "Women are not faithful," he said.
Fernando and Guglielmo both had girlfriends. One day as they were boasting about their love's faithfulness

Così Fan Tutte
An opera composed by Mozart. Italian lyrics written by da Ponte. It was first performed in 1790.

You look pale.
Are you all right, Taga-san?
As the philosopher had suggested, they both decided to put their girlfriends' love to the test.
I'm all right...
The sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, believed their lovers really were sent off to war and they lamented.
They began seducing them
The boyfriends then returned, but wearing costumes to render them unrecognizable,
and they switched girl-friends!
Are you sure you're okay?
Then... try the Dorabella aria that you sang yesterday.


But Dorabella's heart swayed right away.
Fiordiligi remained faithful and firm and rejected the advances.
Right.
I swayed right away too.
Of course!
Because I had completely broken up with Shinichi.

I fell in love with men who knew nothing about music.

But Shinichi was much cooler.

There was no sweeter man than Shinichi.

So I wanted him back again.

His music wasn't in any of the others.

Is that wrong?

That's not wrong! Dammit!!
COSI FAN TUTTE!
(Women Are All Like That!)
You have...
a very beautiful

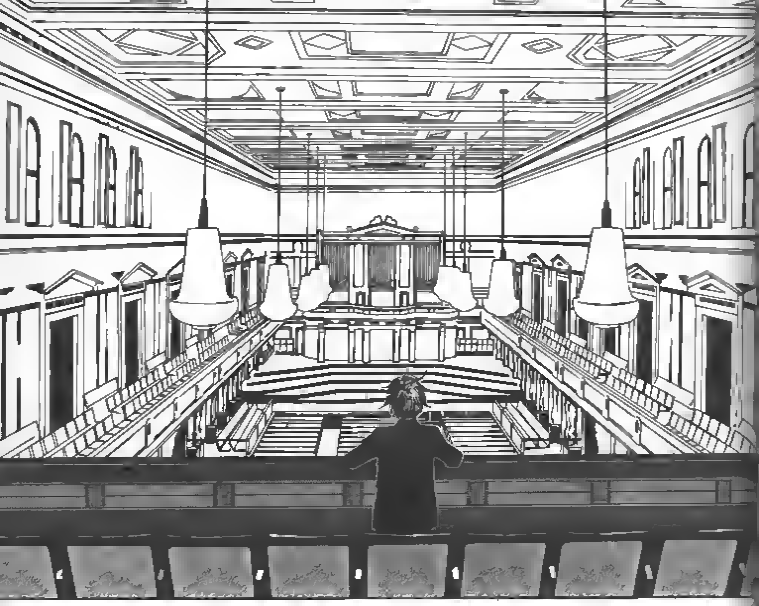
Now I respect Chiaki...
and I can't stop dreaming of him
and I want to believe the words he said to me.
"voice"
I have my music.
Bravo!!
Let's try Princess Camellia next time!!
PLOP
Here!

You have to start practicing the concerto!
I've already played it.
You told me you wanted to play it with an orchestra.
Huh?
What do you mean, huh...
Sempai, you accompanied me the other day. ♡
But playing with sempai's piano... was like playing with the real thing.
I felt so good...
Nodame is really satisfied. ♡

Are you sure you're okay now!?
Thank you very much.
I'm very happy now. ♡
BOW
Chiaki-sama! ♡
Nodame!
Long time no see.
Hey
KYAA
Ah!
Why don't we go out and do something?
Nodame...
How 'bout going bowling?
I'll go, I'll go. ♡
How about going to a manga coffee shop?
What's that!?

NODAME
CANTABILE

NODAME CANTABILE



SPECIAL STORY

WAAAH
The first place winner is
Shinichi Chiaki!
You have talent for sure
I wonder if you inherited it from your dad?
You're truly amazing You got first place again
No, it wasn't talent
Don't say that, Mom

Izorude
I heard Izorude was a good player, but she must not have been in this competition.
The level of competition was low this time.
Everybody else was awful.
Shinichi!
I want to go home and watch the football game.
Leave me alone!!
Shinichi!
Not yet!
GRAB
You need to say goodbye to your teacher first...

My dad didn't come, just as I expected!
He's here in Vienna, but he didn't come!
I shouldn't have played in this competition!
No more playing music for me...
Vienna, Austria
Eh
A letter!?

Shinichi Chiaki
12 years old
From my dad...?
Dear, it's from your father.
To Shinichi
Here's a ticket to a concert that my friend is going to conduct. I only have one ticket to give you, but you'll be all right going alone, won't you?
From Dad
Who cares about that concert!!
Don't try to butter me up by sending me a ticket...
His writing is horrible! Is he really an adult!?
And Japanese!?
He didn't even write my name with kanji!
FWAP

I'm not interested in orchestras!
FLOP
FAIRY TALES
you'll be all right going alone, won't you?
Dammit!
If I didn't go, he'd probably think I was afraid to go alone!
I'm not afraid!
Eh... Are you alone?
What's wrong with that!?

WAAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WAAA
WAAAAA
WAAAAA
WAAAAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
He performed a piano concerto with me before.
That conductor, Sebastiano Viera...
CLAP
The piece... Beethoven's 5th...
<Fate>

What is this!?
It's great!
Because I've only heard it played on a record before...? Is that why?

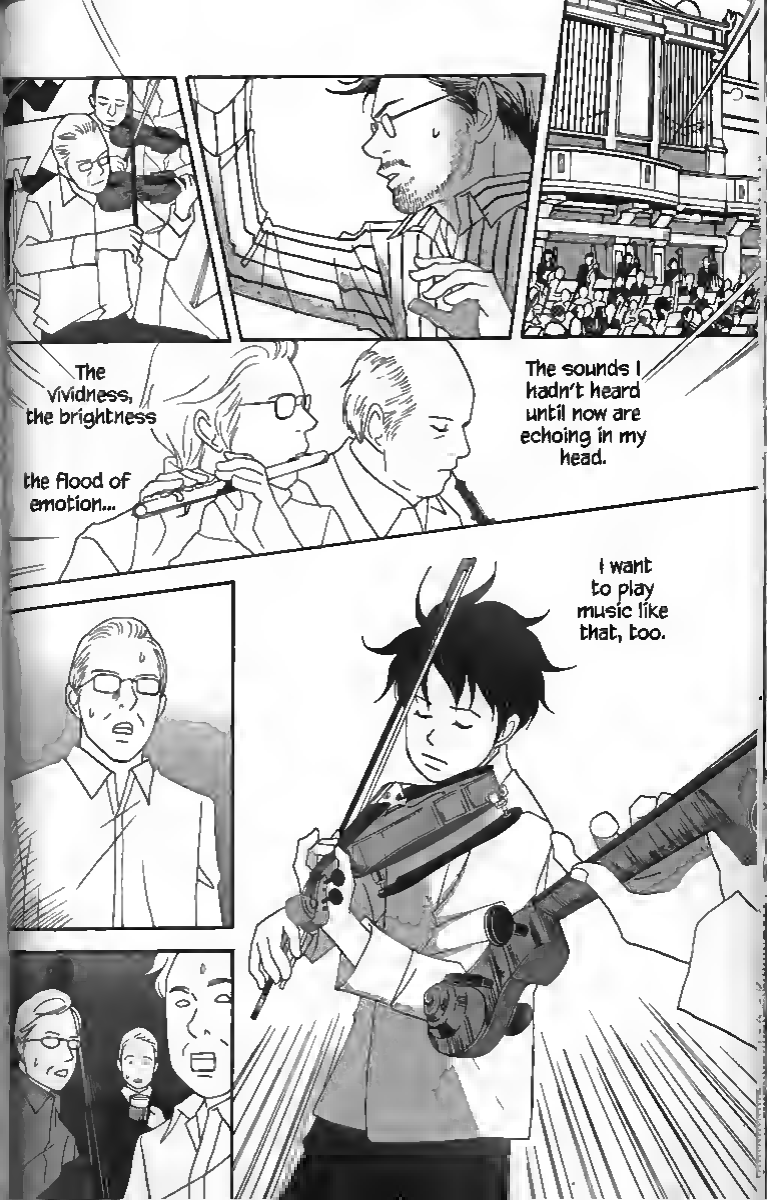
That was the first time I was shocked by music.
Stop!
Cellos! Play that part a little more clearly.
Sebastiano Viera
It's because this is his Beethoven.

HMMM
String section, you have to lead!
Let's try it again from here.
Second chair from the right, tune your violin!
Would you like to conduct instead of me?
GRIN
Huh...

Hey! Who's kid is this? He shouldn't be in here!
I wasn't serious!
Throw him out!
Really!?
He's been coming here for a long time... it seems he knows the concert hall manager.
Eh!
That boy is pianist Masayuki Chiaki's son, Maestro.
HA HA HA
CONCERT MASTER
Please let me be your pupil!!
When I saw you conducting
I decided that someday I wanted to be a conductor like you.
You don't look like Chiaki.
Really... you're Chiaki's son...?
Ahh...
STRETCH
He looks more like this...
Excuse me!

Violin. And a little piano...!
Yes!
You
Do you play any musical instruments?
Then why don't you run on home and practice your violin and piano some more. ♡
PAT PAT
HA HA HA
Good, good.
Really?
SLAM
TOSS
And don't ever come back here. ♡
I'll be his pupil for sure!
I'm not giving up!

CONTRABASS CASE
Hn...
He's sneaky like a ninja.
He's in here again!
Maestro~~~!
I'll be responsible for him.
Eh!?
CONCERT MASTER!
Forget about him being your pupil for now.
Now, now, Maestro.
Please let him watch us rehearse.
Is this hurting you!?
HA HA HA
ZZZIP
Ah!
You need to be quiet, okay?
I respect the concert master in Vienna's best orchestra.
Okay!
And now I can watch Viera-sensei conduct!


The vividness, the brightness
the flood of emotion...
The sounds I hadn't heard until now are echoing in my head.
I want to play music like that, too.

What a surprise!
I didn't expect him to play that well...
Like a professional...
He's truly Masayuki Chiaki's son!
Concert master's violin
Impressive...
I haven't seen such a talented kid in a long time...
No.
Eh.
He is not good
If he doesn't change,
What he's trying to express...
is way too much by only playing a violin.

You were right, you play piano "a little bit."
WA HA HA
Uh...
But Viera-sensei, you're not a good piano player either.
Eh!
It couldn't hurt.
Should I concentrate more on practicing piano in the future?
He's very much in demand.
Oh— your dad...
It doesn't matter.
No, I don't.
HA HA HA
You always hear your dad. That's why my playing doesn't sound good to you~~
I haven't seen my dad in over a year.

I know he's cheating on my mom.
Even when he's in Vienna, he doesn't come home.
HUH...
Eh!? No way~~~!
HA HA HA
How do you know that?
I saw it.
The woman that's like his manager, who is always with him...
I saw her leg sticking out of his bed in his hotel room.
And his face was by her leg...
Okay, okay...
That's enough.
My mom...
She's an idiot!
She doesn't know anything.
She's still so "innocent"...!

Hmm...
PLUNK
Hmm?
Hm...
Eh!
And now she's doing the same thing to me...!!
She supported him before he was famous.
Shinichi
She doesn't even realize that he "dropped her" as soon as he was successful...
Shinichi
I'm the only one who knows you have talent.
That's enough for today...
Why don't you go home and practice.
Sensei!?

?
You feel a little relieved, right?
The words are...
Maestro!
The limited edition game you wanted, I found it in France!!
Eh!? You really found one!?
Yes!
It was hard to find. I had to go all the way to the south of France.
I had to take it from a kid...
Only my manager could have done this.
WOW
KYA
My story isn't as important as a toy!?

This is a Japanese game, right!?
GAME OF LIFE
Let's play it!
Shinichi!
Look, look!
Don't worry, don't worry ♡
I still have three hours.
HA HA HA
Let's play, let's play!
Don't you have to play a concert today!?
But, Viera-sensei.
Why don't you translate it for me?
It's all written in Japanese.
Eh~~~
For me... "my stocks went up and I made a profit of $10,000."
TAK
KLITA
KLITA
KLITA
Viera-sensei, "you danced the Flamenco too much and you lose a turn."

ENTERTAINER
JOB CARD
Viera-sensei... "You're involved in a scandal. If you chose to be an entertainer, you're kicked out of the entertainment industry! You must return your job card and go back to unemployment."
TAK
You lose a large sum of turn-over in Korea and have to pay ₩12,000
Viera-sensei... "Your biggest venture ends in failure. You lose everything and must reconstruct your life."
KLITA
TAK
I did it! Being a business-man isn't so bad.
I... "discovered an old ruin in the Middle East." I receive $100,000."
BOW
BOW
I don't want that kind of life!
Try it again! I want to play one more time!
But you have a consort.
I can't believe...

This is the same man who was so angry about having to "reconstructed" his life.
<Pathitique> It is a sad song.
But, why, papa?
That's wrong, Shinichi.
Tchaikovsky <Pathitique>
But you shouldn't express your sadness so openly.
It's strange if you play it too sadly.
HUH?

This piece is hiding Tchaikovsky's secrets and mystery.
What are his secrets and mystery?
It's a secret. That's why it's a mystery.
Tchaikovsky was very sad, but he couldn't tell anyone.
Huh?
Play like what I just explained.
KSHHHHH
That was the first and last lesson my dad ever gave me.

Yes.
America?
I've decided we're moving to America.
Eh...!?
and has invited you to go study in New York.
saw you at the competition
An instructor from Juilliard Music Academy
Huh?
Is she really serious...
KLAK
We can stay at your dad's condo.
This is a big opportunity for you.
Shinichi!?
You're okay with that, aren't you, Shinichi?

Wait!!
Eh?
Shinichi!
It's true I like music
Stay away from me!!
DASH
I said stop!
Shinichi!
SPLASH
SPLASH
In fact I love it.
But why does she always do things like this!?
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
HEEE

ガ
チャ
GACHA
I'm coming...
Viera-sensei!
I'll do anything!
Let me stay here with you!!
I'll work!
Help me!!
Other-wise...
My mom's gonna take me away to America!!
Shinichi...?

Here he is.
GRAB
Sensei...
I'm not your dad.
Don't get carried away!!
KSHHHHH

I'm sorry.
I...
I have to say good-bye to your dad.
I think this will be hard on you.
But I've already made up my mind.
I'm very sorry, Shinichi.

My mother knew everything.
But she could never say anything about it.
I need to go back to Japan to file the divorce papers.
Otherwise I could never marry again.
But I'm glad that I got your dad's condo in New York as part of our settlement. ♡
Who was that person she used to be...?
HA HA HA
Shinichi!
Viera-sensei!

This is a score that I used in a recent performance.
It has my check marks on it.
Tchai-kovsky!?
Tchaikovsky
"Pathetique"
Here...
Don't ever forget that and try to do your best!
but we will always be connected through music.
I can't be your dad,
Viera-sensei...
We will meet again!
I will become a conductor for sure!
You're my pupil.

Someday...
And...
It was on that trip to Japan that my plane had problems with its landing gear
That's when I became this person who's too afraid to fly
Gyabo!
How many times do I have to tell you!?
Listen carefully to what I'm playing!!

うわーん
WAAAN
I'm sorry!!
Are you reading the notes!? You.../
Dear Viera-sensei
I'm doing my best to "reconstruct" my life in Japan.
STRETCH
STRETCH
Shem....
Shem-pai..../?
PHEW

Rafuma Hell

These are Nodame's hands that I used as a model for my drawings... I'm sorry, next time I'll buy an electric piano.

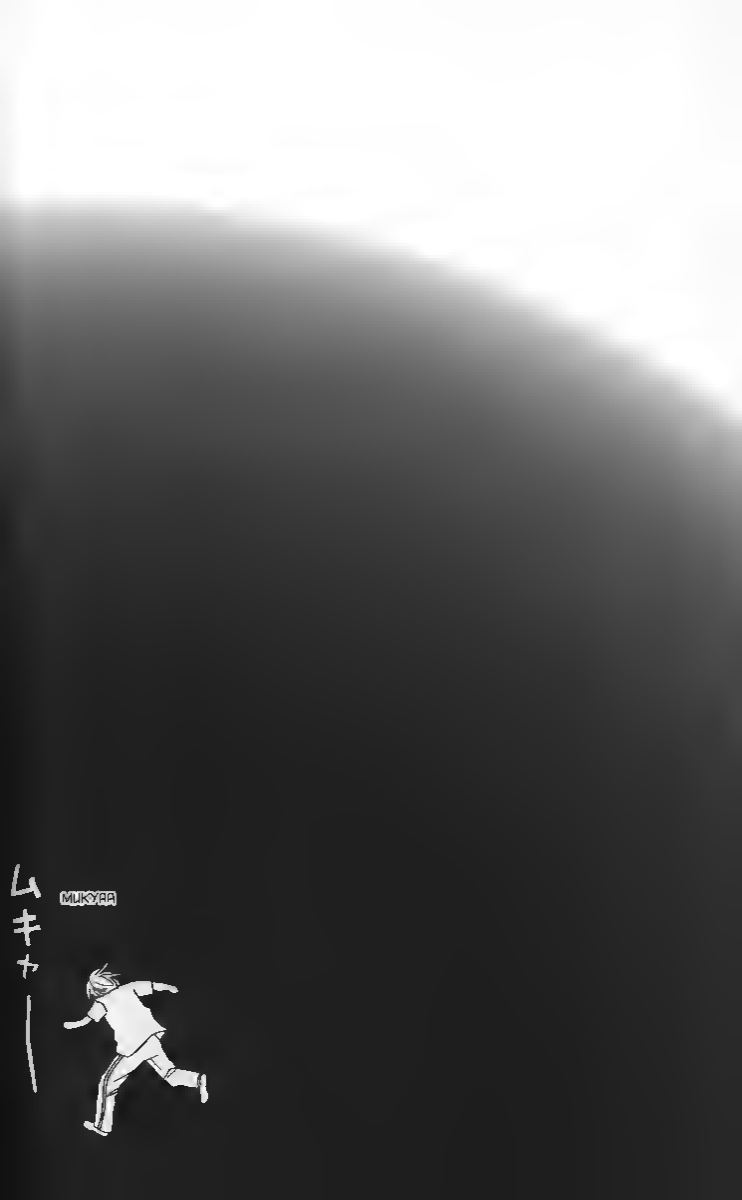
Hoshino-kun is checking a score.

In piano music writing hell

Thank you. Everybody!

Sorry for bothering you guys...

To Mayumi Kimura, thank you very much for sending me the picture of Vienna!


ムキャー
MUKYAA

About the Author

Tomoko Ninomiya was born in Saitama in 1969. She made her debut as manga-ka with "London Doubt Boys" in 1989. Her main works include "Green" and "Miho the Trend Queen." She is currently working on "Nodame Cantabile" which is serialized in *Kiss* (Kodansha).

Tomoko Ninomiya's comment upon winning the 28th Kodansha Manga Award in 2004:

"I hope someone enjoys reading this series.
This hope and wish is what always motivates me when working on a manga.

"The original inspiration for 'Nodame Cantabile' came from an idea that I had, that it might be fun to write about a young piano student who practices the piano in a room full of junk. Looking back, I am amazed that my editor and the magazine let me serialize it, and I'm grateful.

"This is also a series which would not have been possible without the generous cooperation of music students and professionals whom I interviewed. The Manga Award goes to everyone who was involved with 'Nodame,' including Mikawa-san (my editor) and all the staff members who work with me.

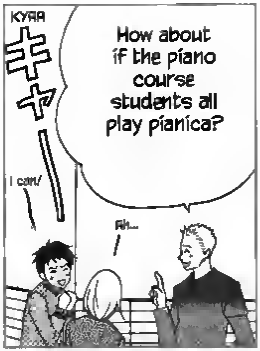
"I will continue to enjoy working on this series, and I hope my readers will continue to enjoy it, too."

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

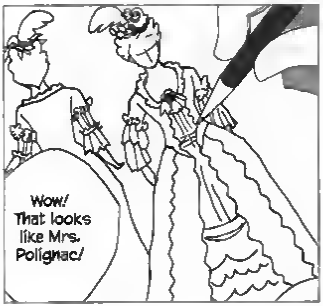
Pianca, page 7

A pianica is a variation on a melodica. A melodica is a small keyboard that you blow into to play. The resulting sound is similar to a harmonica or an accordion. It seems to be more popular in Japan than elsewhere, where there are even small pianica orchestras. It also seems most commonly played by jazz musicians



Berubara, page 8

In a previous volume, Nodame had stated that she loves "Berubara." This is short for Berusaiyu No Bara, or The Rose of Versailles. It's a Japanese manga series that takes place in France in the time of the French Revolution, and Mrs. Polignac is a character from that story.



Nosebleeds, page 9

In Japanese manga and anime, a nosebleed signifies erotic stimulation and is often shown by bits of tissue hanging from one's nose. Nodame is kidding Masumi about him getting aroused at the thought of Chiaki playing Rachmaninoff.

Salt, page 25

It's an old superstition that throwing salt over your shoulder will clear away the bad spirits. It is similar to blessing someone after they've sneezed. Some believe the salt is intended to blind the devil and others say it's to keep him from sneaking up on you.

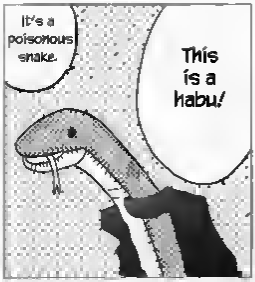
Montsukihakama and kimono, page 39

A *montsukihakama* is a traditional black-and-white costume that the groom wears to a wedding or older men would wear to a formal event. A kimono is a T-shaped robe that hangs to the ankles worn by both men and women, also usually considered formalwear. Both of these choices of costumes are very odd for an orchestra and certainly would get the audience's attention. This is why when the audience saw the orchestra dressed up, they wondered if it wasn't the parents arriving.

DRESSING ROOM
HEE
Why aren't you in your costumes!?
Masumi -chan, you look gorgeous...
Why are you guys wearing montsukihakamas and kimonos?

Habu, page 42

A *habu* is a small poisonous snake, usually less than five feet long, that is found in southeast Asia. They are rarely seen in North America and even photographs of them are uncommon. It's actually a true story that mongooses were released to eat them but instead started eating the amami black rabbits that are on the endangered species list.



Shoji, page 52

A *shoji* is a paper-covered sliding screen used to divide rooms or cover windows. In this case, it's pretty unorthodox and humorous to use them as a partition for the band to sit behind.

Hayaoki wa sanmon no toku, page 103

The Japanese have their own idiom, but its meaning is similar to this one. *Hayaoki wa sanmon no toku* basically means waking up early will earn you three coins (i.e. "The early bird gets the worm."). I turned it into a question to match the Japanese.

Hostesses, page 104

Franz and Shinichi went out partying. They went to a club with "hostesses," where women meet with men and keep them company. The boss woman is called the "Mama," and in this case it's Mama Shihoko.

A nice room, page 104

500,000 yen is worth about $5,000.00 in US currency. That's a nice room!

Grave of the Fireflies, page 120

Grave of the Fireflies is a reference to a movie about two Japanese children who are orphaned during the war. The older brother tries to provide for his sister, but she eventually dies of malnutrition. Poor Nodame is a living wreck here, much like the character in the movie was.

Pianissimo and fortissimo, page 132

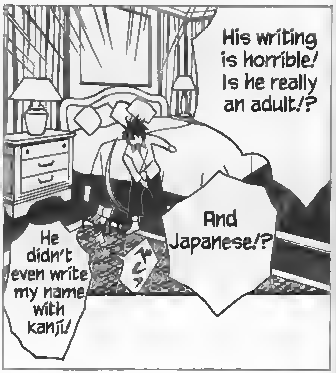
In musical direction, pianissimo means very soft. Nodame is playing it fortissimo which is the exact opposite, or very loud.

Manga coffee shops, page 152

Manga is so widespread in Japan that they have coffee shops featuring shelves full of manga. Kids, as well as adults, go to relax with a book of manga while they have a drink.

Kanji, page 159

Kanji are the Chinese characters also used by the Japanese as the major part of their writing system. Although kanji can number in the tens of thousands, currently only around 2,000 are used in everyday language. The number of kanji a person knows and uses is a good indication of his education.



AN ORCHESTRAL ORDEAL

Chiaki is beyond ecstatic. Maestro Stresemann has decided to conduct the A orchestra and has asked Chiaki to join. But who will lead the S orchestra? Drastic measures may mean a hilarious concert, and a festival to remember. From the student body to the faculty, the whole school is abuzz with anticipation. Nodame is playing a piano concerto, Chiaki, too, is tickling the ivories (and honored to be led by the Great Master), and the S orchestra is just thrilled to be part of the program. Of course, the real *excitement begins the night before the musical event. . . .*

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